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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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BY:

DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Criminal Case No. 08mj0132-NLS

Plaintiff,

v.

ALEXANDER WEIR IV (10),
aka "Brick",

DETENTION ORDER
(After Hearing)

Defendant.

In accordance with § 3142(f) of the Bail Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. § 3141 et seq.), a detention hearing was held to determine whether defendant ALEXANDER WEIR IV, aka "Brick" ("Defendant"), should be held in custody pending trial, on the ground that Defendant is a flight risk. Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew G. Schopler appeared on behalf of the United States; John Lemon, Esq., appeared on behalf of Defendant.

Based on the evidence proffered by the United States and Defendant, the pretrial services report, and the criminal complaint, the Court concludes the following: the Government met its burden by a preponderance of the evidence that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the Defendant as required.

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I.

FINDINGS OF FACT

A. Nature and Circumstances of the Offense Charged [18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(1)]

1. Defendant is charged in a criminal complaint with conspiracy to distribute cocaine base in the form of crack cocaine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1), and conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1). Therefore, there exists probable cause to believe Defendant committed the charged offense.

2. Because a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.), a presumption arises that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the Defendant or the safety of the community. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e).

3. If convicted of this charge, Defendant faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years imprisonment. 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1). In addition, Defendant is eligible for an enhancement of his mandatory minimum sentence to 20 years imprisonment.

4. Under the United States Sentencing Guidelines, even if the mandatory minimum did not apply, the Base Offense Level would likely be at least 34. See USSG § 2D1.1. Even assuming Defendant's criminal history score only places Defendant in Criminal History Category I (and there are no upward departures for under-represented criminal history category), see USSG § 4A1.1, the Guidelines sentencing range for Defendant is at least 151-188 months in prison after trial, or at least 108-135 month in prison with a -3 for acceptance of responsibility.

5. In this case, the nature and severity of the offense favors detention.

B. Weight of the Evidence Against the Defendant [18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(2)]

6. The weight of the evidence against Defendant is strong in that there are numerous wire intercepts indicating that Defendant engaged in drug trafficking.

7. Although this factor is to be given the least weight, there is probable cause to believe the Defendant committed the charged offense, which favors detention.

C. History and Characteristics of the Defendant [18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(3)]

8. Defendant is a citizen of the United States.

9. Defendant has resided in San Diego County since 1979 and in Chula Vista for the past 7 years.

10. Defendant is single, but has one daughter. Defendant's family lives in Texas.

11. Defendant has worked for 15 years for ONT Maintenance, and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy after serving from 1977-79.

12. Defendant has previously was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon in 1980

(this case included a failure to appear for court); felony possession of marijuana for sale in 1982;

false information to police in 1983; felony possession of marijuana for sale in 1984 (2 years in

prison); felony burglary in 1986 (4 years in prison); felony possession of a narcotic controlled substance in 1989 (2 years in prison); and felony possession of marijuana for sale in 1996.

Defendant has also been arrested for kidnaping, assault with a firearm and shooting into an inhabited dwelling.

D. Nature and Seriousness of Danger Posed by Release [18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(4)]

13. The evidence that Defendant would pose a danger to any person or the community is as follows: Defendant is charged with a serious drug-trafficking offense; Defendant has previously been convicted of assault with a deadly weapon; Defendant has previously been convicted of serious drug-trafficking crimes; and Defendant has been arrested for kidnaping, assault with a firearm and shooting into an inhabited dwelling.

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II.

REASONS FOR DETENTION

14. There is probable cause to believe that the Defendant committed the offense charged:

15. Defendant faces a substantial period of time in custody if convicted of the offense charged in the Complaint; specifically, Defendant faces a potentially substantial mandatory minimum sentence of imprisonment. Defendant therefore has a strong motive to flee.

16. Defendant has not rebutted the presumption that arises from the Court's finding of probable cause to believe Defendant committed an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.), that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of Defendant at future court proceedings.

III.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Defendant be detained pending trial in this matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant be committed to the custody of the Attorney General or the Attorney General's designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. Defendant shall be afforded reasonable opportunity for private consultation with counsel.

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1 While in custody, upon order of a court of the United States or upon the request of an
2 attorney for the United States, the person in charge of the correctional facility shall deliver
3 Defendant to the United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court
4 proceeding or any other appearance stipulated to by counsel for the defense and for the United
5 States.

6 THIS ORDER IS ENTERED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

8 DATED: 1-26-08


Hon. NITA L. STORMES
United States Magistrate Judge

10 | Prepared by:

12 ANDREW G. SCHOPLER
Assistant U.S. Attorney